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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 26 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I have the honour to inform you that on Wednesday, 11 August 1999, a Kuwaiti coastguard arrested a wooden boat named Naurani inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. The boat was coming from Iraq and flying the United Arab Emirates flag.

Once the boat and its crew of 10 had been detained, it was discovered to have an export certificate from the port of Basra and to be carrying cotton seed, 75 cartons of infant powder and 25 cartons of infant feeding bottles, in clear and flagrant violation of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The captain of the arrested boat confessed that he had previously committed six such violations.

This incident demonstrates beyond any doubt that the Iraqi regime is abusing the oil-for-food programme and that, far from distributing to the Iraqi people the humanitarian goods that it imports under the humanitarian programme, it is in fact exporting them outside the country, regardless of its own people's needs. The incident also demonstrates that the Iraqi regime is

indifferent to the suffering of its people and only interested in exploiting that suffering as propaganda in order to achieve its aims and political purposes, namely, to have the sanctions lifted without having to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We would like this letter to be circulated as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights under the agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world".

(Signed) Dharar A.R. RAZZOOQI

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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